

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /060 W
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R 201501Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7336
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10534

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, JO

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN PRIMIN IN EGYPT

1 GOJ PRIMIN RIFA'I IS SUBJECT OF FEATURE PHOTO INALL CAIRO PAPERS OCTOBER 20; HE IS SHOWN SHAKING HANDS WITH BROADLY SMILING PRESIDENT SADAT. REPORTING OF MEETING, WHILE TOTALLY DEVOID OF SUBSTANCE, EMPHASIZES THAT RIFA'I ARRIVED IN CAIRO OCTOBER 19 "AT REQUEST OF PRESIDENT SADAT," AND THAT AFTER THEIR MEETING RIFA'I RETURNED DIRECTLY TO AMMAN. ACCORDING TO PRESS, VP MUBARAK WILL VISIT JORDAN IN NOVEMBER JUST PRIOR TO VISIT TO KING HUSAIN TO CAIRO FOR A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SADAT.

2. COMMENT: SADAT RECEIVED RIFA'I IN PRESENCE OF VP MUBARAK, PRIMIN SALIM, AND PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER MARWAN. THEY MET FOR TWO HOURS IN ROOM ADJACENT TO ONE IN WHICH AMBASSADOR EILTS WAS CALLING ON MRS. SADAT. THINNESS OF PARTITION ALLOWED VOICES TO CARRY AND ALTHOUGH AMBASSADOR UNABLE TO DISTINGUISH PRECISE WORDS, TONE OF DISCUSSIONS WAS
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CLEARLY ACRIMONIOUS AND PRESIDENT WAS HEARD TO BE SHOUTING FOR

CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME.

3. NEITHER MFA NOR JORDANIANS ARE YET PREPARED TO TALK ABOUT MEETING. JORDANIAN EMBOFF, WHO ACCOMPANIED RIFA'I THROUGHOUT VISIT, WOULD SAY ONLY THAT JORDANIANS WERE IMPRESSED BY SADAT'S REPEATED ASSERTIONS THAT ONLY HUSSEIN COULD NEGOTIATE FOR WEST BANK. FROM FAHMY'S COMMENTS TO AMBASSADOR EILTS, WE ASSUME MAJOR SUBJECT WAS EGYPTIAN DISSATISFACTION WITH SYRIAN-JORDANIAN POLITICAL "FRONT". COMMENTING ON THIS, JORDANIAN EMBOFF SAID AMBASSADOR JUM'A WAS AT LEAST IN PART RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY RETHINKING OF THIS POLICY WHICH MAY BE GOING ON AT DESMAN PALACE, SINCE JUM'A FIRMLY BELIEVES JORDAN'S LONG-RUN INTERESTS LIE WITH EGYPT. IT WAS TO MAKE THIS POINT THAT JUM'A WENT BACK TO AMMAN RECENTLY. EMBOFF ADDED THAT SINCE RIFA'T'S STAB AT MEDIATING BETWEEN CAIRO AND DAMASCUS HAD FAILED TOTALLY, IT SEEMED UNLIKELY HE WOULD TRY AGAIN. IN ANY CASE MUBARAK WILL BE GOING TO AMMAN PERHAPS AS EARLY AS THE END OF OCTOBER. BUT IT IS, OF COURSE, HUSSEIN'S VISIT HERE THAT MATTERS. JORDANIAN SIDE, EMBOFF NOTED, WAS IMPRESSED BY URGENCY WITH WHICH EGYPTIANS IMPLICITLY EXPRESSED THEIR NEED FOR ARAB ALLIES. HE CLAIMED THAT RIFA'I LEFT RELATIVELY HAPPY AND THAT HE WAS PLEASED WITH PROTOCOL TREATMENT HE RECEIVED, HAVING BEEN MET AT AIRPORT BY PRIMIN AND TWO DEPPRIMINS.

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